



Trout Stream Habitat Improvement Wildcat Creek Houston, County

Partners: **Craig Moorhead, Landowner**
 MN Department of Natural Resources
 USDA-NRCS

Wildcat Creek is a small, cold water designated trout stream located in Houston County, MN. The stream supports primarily brown trout, with the potential of supporting populations of native brook trout.

The glaciers missed this region of the state, therefore the topography is steep and the valleys dissected by groundwater fed cold water streams. The watershed of Wildcat creek is predominantly timbered with forestry and grazing the predominant agricultural use. Past history of season long grazing has caused streambank erosion and nutrient pollution. WHIP funding was utilized to construct 2000' of fencing to exclude livestock from the stream therefore eliminating future streambank trampling and water quality concerns.

Additional practices include 350' of streambank stabilization. Eroding streambanks were re-shaped and seeded for erosion control. Rock rip-rap was placed at the toe of the slope to protect the streambank from higher stream velocities.



Before



After

Based upon recommendations from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, approximately 2400' of instream habitat improvement was completed through the installation of cutbank shelters or "lunker structures". These artificial structures simulate natural stream cutbanks and provide foraging sites and safe shelter for the trout.



Constructed "lunker structure"



Lunker structure installed into streambank